

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 15 are presently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. New claim 15 has been added.

In item 1 of the Office Action, claims 1 - 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,333,973 to Smith et al ("SMITH").

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.

More particularly, Applicants' claim 1 has been amended to make it even more clear that each of the different message services indicates receipt of a new message on the respective message service, to a notification server common to all of the different message services. As such, Applicants' amended claim 1 recites, among other limitations:

indicating, with each of the plurality of different message services, to a notification server common to all of the different message services, a presence of a new message for the subscriber on the respective message service; [emphasis added by Applicants]

The amendment to claim 1 is supported by the specification of the instant application, for example, on page 15 of the instant application, lines 23 - 25, which states:

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The inputs and outputs are connected, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 to different communications networks and message services. [emphasis added by Applicants]

See also, for example, page 3 of the instant application, lines 18 - 24, stating:

The invention is based on the basic idea of providing a common notification server to which each message service indicates the presence of a new message for the subscriber. The notification server constitutes, as it were, the connection between the plurality of message services by transmitting a suitable notification to at least one terminal of the subscriber. [emphasis added by Applicants]

The **SMITH** reference, cited in the Office Action against Applicants' previously presented claims, does not teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, a plurality of different message services indicating receipt of a new message on the respective message service to a notification server common to all of the different message services, as required by Applicants' amended claim 1.

Rather, **SMITH** teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention by teaching that the message service is only part of the subscriber's mobile network, i.e., part of only one of the different message services, and thus reports the receipt new messages only received on that network and only directed to the subscriber's mobile telephone on that network. This can

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be seen from Fig. 5 of **SMITH**, and from col. 6 of **SMITH**, line 66 - col. 7 of **SMITH**, line 6, which states:

These hardware elements of mobile telephone 1100 permit the user to communicate with network services provider 1200 (FIG. 1) to retrieve pending messages. FIG. 5 is a block diagram of the elements of network services provider 1200, including interface 5100, transcoder and rate adapter unit (TRAU) 5200, SMS server 5300, interworking function (IWF) servers 5400 and 5500, voice mail server 5600, fax mail server 5700, e-mail server 5800, and backup 5900. [emphasis added by Applicants]

See also, for example, col. 3 of **SMITH**, line 48 - col. 4, line 64, which describes how, in **SMITH**, a caller leaves different types of messages for a user in conjunction with a single network services provider 1200. As such, as discussed in **SMITH**, the mobile telephone 1100 is informed of new messages for that user left with a single network message service - network services provider 1200. Thus, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, **SMITH** fails to teach or suggest a plurality of different message services, as required by Applicants' claim 1.

Consequently, **SMITH** also fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, a notification server common to all of the different message services for indicating the presence of a new message for the subscriber on a respective message service. Rather, the SMS server 5300 of **SMITH**, which reports the receipt of new messages in **SMITH**, is

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dedicated to the network service provider 1200 of SMITH, and thus, only to a single message service, and thus, can only report the receipt of new messages on that message service. As a result, the network services provider 1200 of SMITH is not a notification server common to all of the different message services for indicating receipt of a new message on a respective message service, as required by Applicants' claim 1.

In other words, in SMITH, the network services provider 1200 of SMITH provides the mobile telephone 1100 of SMITH with an indication of messages received only on the network of the mobile telephone 1100 of SMITH, and thus, is common only to the network of the mobile telephone 1100. Applicants' claims require, among other things, a plurality of different message services that receive new messages and a notification server that is common to all of the different message services to provide an indication to a selected user terminal of a plurality of user terminals of the message services of a new message received on a respective one of the different message services.

As such, the SMITH reference fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, a plurality of different message services indicating receipt of a new message

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on the respective message service to a notification server
common to all of the different message services, as required
by Applicants' claim 1.

Further, Applicants have added a new claim 15 that recites,
among other limitations:

A method of notifying a subscriber of a plurality of
message services on a plurality of different networks
of a message, the method comprising the steps of:

indicating, with each of the plurality of different
message services, to a notification server common to
all of the different message services on the plurality
of different networks, a presence of a new message for
the subscriber on the respective message service;
[emphasis added by Applicants]

As such, Applicants' new claim 15 makes requires, among other
things, that the notification server is common to all of a
plurality of different message services on a plurality of
different networks. Applicants' new claim 15 is supported by
the specification of the instant application, for example,
page 9 of the instant application, lines 2 - 9, which state:

Referring now to the figures of the drawing in detail
and first, particularly, to Fig. 1 thereof, **there is
seen a notification server MWIS which receives
information from message services of a plurality of
communication networks**, namely an ISDN network (ISDN =
Integrated Services Digital Network), a GSM network
(GSM = Global System for Mobile Communications), a
data network DN, and a private network referred to
below as PISN.

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As discussed above in connection with claim 1, **SMITH** discloses a single network services provider 1200 of **SMITH** that provides the mobile telephone 1100 of **SMITH** with an indication of messages received only on the single network of the mobile telephone 1100 of **SMITH**, and thus, is common only to the **network** of the mobile telephone 1100. Applicants' claim 15 explicitly requires, among other things, the plurality of different message services to be on a plurality of different networks, and a notification server that is common to all of the different networks to provide an indication to a selected user terminal of a plurality of user terminals of the message services of a new message received on a respective one of the different message services. As such, Applicants' new claim 15 is additionally believed to be patentable over the **SMITH** reference.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1 and 15. Claims 1 and 15 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 15 are solicited.


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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

The instant application is being filed simultaneously with a Request for Continued Examination and its associated fee. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any additional fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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